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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY



PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference HB/vR 2363WO	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)
International application No.	International filing date (day/month/year) Priority date (day/month/year)
PCT/EP2003/014696	20 December 2003 (20.12.2003) 16 January 2003 (16.01.2003)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC C22C 21/10	
Applicant ALCAN TECHNOLOGY & MANAGEMENT LTD.	
 This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36. 	
2. This REPORT consists of a total of sheets, including this cover sheet.	
This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).	
These annexes consist of a total of sheets.	
3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:	
I Basis of the report	
II Priority	
III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability	
IV Lack of unity of invention	
V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement	
VI Certain documents cited	
VII Certain defects in the international application	
VIII Certain observations on the international application	
Date of submission of the demand	Date of completion of this report
23 July 2004 (23.07.	2004) 04 August 2004 (04.08.2004)
Name and mailing address of the IPBA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.



I. Basis of the report

The basis of international preliminary examination report is the application as originally filed.

V. Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability

In light of the documents cited in the international search report, it is considered that the invention as defined in the claims meets the criteria mentioned in Article 33(1) PCT, i.e. it appears to be novel and to involve an inventive step.